

**From:** [Borries, Samuel](#)  
**To:** [Poy, Thomas](#)  
**Cc:** [Maguire, Andrew](#); [Mendez, Thomas](#); [Behnke, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
**Date:** Friday, April 14, 2017 2:51:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [removed.txt](#)  
[SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls](#)  
[US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041317 Cr+.xls](#)  
[Cr6+ Lk Survey 041317.pdf](#)

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Thanks Tom,

Can we post this map and data to our US Steel website?

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**From:** Poy, Thomas  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2017 2:30 PM  
**To:** Borries, Samuel ; Mendez, Thomas  
**Cc:** Korleski, Christopher ; Henry, Timothy  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
Sam/Tom: Here are Chicago's sampling results from yesterday. The current changed yesterday to a westerly direction as verified by slight increases in concentrations on the grid to the northwest.  
The previous day's high values at location 1G and 1 GD are a third lower.  
Chicago is going out again today to sample and will be expanding the grid.  
Tom

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Tom Poy  
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch  
USEPA - Region 5  
(312) 886-5991

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**From:** Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** Poy, Thomas <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>; Ames, Mort <[Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org)>; Murphy, Barrett <[Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org)>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <[Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>; Caminer, Irene <[Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org)>; Putz, Andrea <[Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org)>; dave McMillan <[dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov](mailto:dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov)>; Wheat, Christopher <[Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org)>; McMillan, Dave <[DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov](mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov)>; Kelly, Mike <[Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org)>; Schwer, Patrick <[Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org)>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <[Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org)>; O'Malley, Mark <[Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org)>; Salinas, Eduardo <[Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>; Saleh, Hassen <[Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org)>; Bresnahan, William <[William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org](mailto:William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org)>  
**Cc:** Mary Hollingsworth <[MHolling@idem.IN.gov](mailto:MHolling@idem.IN.gov)>; Korleski, Christopher <[korleski.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:korleski.christopher@epa.gov)>; [feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
All

Attached are the results from yesterday 4/13/17

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68<sup>th</sup> Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 22 sample locations and 27 samples. Five samples

with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.

- Location 1G and 1GD, yesterday showed results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill. BUT yesterday's results were lower at this location at 0.6 and 0.62 respectively.
- Other grid locations showed elevated results below 0.7; thereby, creating a contaminant plume from the point source at 1G.
- The plume appeared to move northwest as predicted following the lake currents from east to west
- Appears the concentration is being diluted

Today 4/14/17

- IEPA was notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to again expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and the plume to make sure the plume is diluting and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

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**From:** Stark, Alan

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2017 1:22 PM

**To:** 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

**Cc:** 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Attached are the results from yesterday

- All Samples collected at SWPP from SWPP's 68<sup>th</sup> Street Crib Complex are within normal range.
- The Lake Survey (see attached) consisted of 16 sample locations and 19 samples. Three samples with the suffix of D indicates a Dip control sample to validate pumped sample.
- Location 1G and 1GD show results an order of magnitude higher than all other results at 2.0 and 1.6 respectively. This location is one of the nearest sampling locations (about a mile) near the spill.

Today

- IEPA and USEPA were notified by phone this morning
- It was determined to expand the grid based Lake Survey sampling to verify and follow the possible plume and continue sampling SWPP's Crib every two hours.
- NOAA Lake Michigan flow current model shows the CURRENT HAS REVERSED from the previous two days of west to east, NOW THE CURRENT IS EAST TO WEST.
- THEREFORE CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF PLUME TO THE WEST
- TESTING WILL CONTINUE

Thanks

Alan

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Alan,

Attached are 2 excel spreadsheets with all of the results from samples received yesterday. Final reports will hopefully be sent out later today.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

**Nathan Trowbridge**

Client Services Manager

**Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.**

110 South Hill Street, South Bend, IN 46617

Phone: 574 472 5528

Mobile: 574 302 2590

Email: [NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com](mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com)

Website: <http://www.EurofinsUS.com/Eaton>

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**From:** Stark, Alan

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:04 PM

**To:** 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; 'dave McMillan'; Wheat, Christopher; 'McMillan, Dave'; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William

**Cc:** 'Mary Hollingsworth'; 'Korleski, Christopher'; 'feighnerb@michigan.gov'

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

See below highlighted, results from first ten samples (excel sheet) in agreement with our routine samples collected quarterly. Remaining results from Crib lake survey being delivered to Eurofins (as of this email) to follow. Also attached GIS plot of lake grid survey, results to follow. As stated earlier further sampling will be based on final results.

Thanks

Alan

**From:** Nathan Trowbridge [<mailto:NathanTrowbridge@eurofinsUS.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:30 PM

**To:** Stark, Alan

**Subject:** RE: COC Sheets

Thanks Alan,

I've attached data for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 samples that were analyzed. The next 4, plus the ones coming in tonight should be ready by tomorrow morning. The data looks fairly steady each hour and what I saw of the next 4 was similar. I'll let you know more as soon as I have data.

If you need anything else, please let me know. I'll be here until all of the new samples are on the instrument. I'll be at home checking email after that.

Thanks,

**Nathan Trowbridge**

Phone: +1 574 472 5528

Mobile: +1 574 302 2590

Email: [NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com](mailto:NathanTrowbridge@EurofinsUS.com)

**From:** Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 6:09 PM

**To:** Nathan Trowbridge

**Subject:** COC Sheets

See attached completed COC from the morning and one from the Lake Survey that is on the way to

you  
Alan

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This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Notify us [here](#) to report this email as spam.

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**From:** Stark, Alan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** 'Poy, Thomas'; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary  
**Cc:** Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; [feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
[Thank you!](#)

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**From:** Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:10 PM  
**To:** Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary  
**Cc:** Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; [feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
[I believe the source of the active release has been stopped and it is just residual in the outfall now.](#)  
Tom

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Tom Poy  
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch  
USEPA - Region 5  
(312) 886-5991

---

**From:** Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:37 AM  
**To:** Poy, Thomas <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>; Ames, Mort <[Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org)>; Murphy, Barrett <[Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org)>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <[Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>; Caminer, Irene <[Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org)>; Putz, Andrea <[Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org)>; dave McMillan <[dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov](mailto:dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov)>; Wheat, Christopher <[Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org)>; McMillan, Dave <[DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov](mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov)>; Kelly, Mike <[Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org)>; Schwer, Patrick <[Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org)>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <[Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org)>; O'Malley, Mark <[Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org)>; Salinas, Eduardo <[Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>  
**Cc:** Mary Hollingsworth <[MHolling@idem.IN.gov](mailto:MHolling@idem.IN.gov)>; Korleski, Christopher <[korleski.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:korleski.christopher@epa.gov)>; [feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
Have they stopped the outfall?

---

**From:** Poy, Thomas [<mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:35 AM

**To:** Stark, Alan; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; McMillan, Dave; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Litherland, Gary

**Cc:** Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; [feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Alan: No update on quantity or concentration. The sampling from yesterday was indicating that the chromium had not reached Lake Michigan. More sampling is going to be done today.

Tom

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Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

---

**From:** Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:08 AM

**To:** Ames, Mort <[Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org)>; Murphy, Barrett

<[Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org)>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<[Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>;

Caminer, Irene <[Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org)>; Putz, Andrea <[Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org)>;

Poy, Thomas <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>; dave McMillan <[dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov](mailto:dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov)>; Wheat,

Christopher <[Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org)>; McMillan, Dave

<[DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov](mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov)>; Kelly, Mike <[Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org)>; Schwer, Patrick

<[Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org)>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <[Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org)>;

O'Malley, Mark <[Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org)>; Salinas, Eduardo

<[Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Hi Tom,

Any updates, release quantity and concentration?

Lake currents still counter clockwise. Hourly samples from SWPP's 68<sup>th</sup> Street Crib complex in route to Eurofins in South Bend. Lake Survey underway, samples will be driven to Eurofins once they boat gets back. Results will be forwarded as I get them. Crib sampling now every two hours lab results will dictated further sampling and possible mitigation.

Thanks

Alan

---

**From:** Stark, Alan

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:44 AM

**To:** Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; Poy, Thomas; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher

**Subject:** Fwd: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom

Thank you for the update.

We are collecting hourly at SWPP crib, driving samples to Euro fins this morning, results later afternoon. Lake survey in morning, drive samples in afternoon, results late night. I will

forward results to you and Dave as I get them.

Thanks

Alan

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>

Date: 4/11/17 11:40 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <[Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org)>, Dave McMillan <[dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov](mailto:dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov)>, Mary Hollingsworth <[MHolling@idem.IN.gov](mailto:MHolling@idem.IN.gov)>, [feighnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:feighnerb@michigan.gov)

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
The last that I heard, they were still investigating the cause and volume of the release. A set of samples were collected before dark. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning

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Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

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**From:** Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:02 PM

**To:** Poy, Thomas <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Any updates?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Poy, Thomas" <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>

Date: 4/11/17 2:53 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Stark, Alan" <[Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org)>

Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
Alan: Thanks for the information. I'm sharing what you're doing with the OSCs at the site.  
Tom

---

Tom Poy

Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5

(312) 886-5991

---

**From:** Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM

**To:** McMillan, Dave <[DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov](mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov)>; Poy, Thomas <[poy.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:poy.thomas@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Murphy, Barrett <[Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org)>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie

<[Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org)>; Putz, Andrea <[Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org)>; Kelly, Mike <[Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org)>; Schwer, Patrick <[Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org)>; O'Malley, Mark <[Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org)>; Salinas, Eduardo <[Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org)>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <[Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org)>; Litherland, Gary <[Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org)>; Caminer, Irene <[Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org)>

**Subject:** RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks

Alan

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**From:** McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM

**To:** Stark, Alan

**Subject:** FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
Additional information per our discussion.

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**From:** Lauder, Roger

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM

**To:** McMillan, Dave <[DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov](mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov)>; Cook, David <[DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov](mailto:DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
FYI

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**From:** Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM

**To:** Lauder, Roger

**Cc:** El-Zein, Jason

**Subject:** [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN  
Roger,

Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

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**From:** Thomas, Craig

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM

**To:** R5 ER Notification List <[R5\\_ER\\_Notification\\_List@epa.gov](mailto:R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Maguire, Andrew <[maguire.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:maguire.andrew@epa.gov)>; Beslow, Mike <[beslow.mike@epa.gov](mailto:beslow.mike@epa.gov)>; Lippert, Jeffrey <[lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov)>; Behnke, Kristina <[behnke.kristina@epa.gov](mailto:behnke.kristina@epa.gov)>; Mendez, Thomas <[mendez.thomas@epa.gov](mailto:mendez.thomas@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

**ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN**

**Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial):** NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

**Report as of:** 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

**Overview:** On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident,

and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well. Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

**State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:** The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

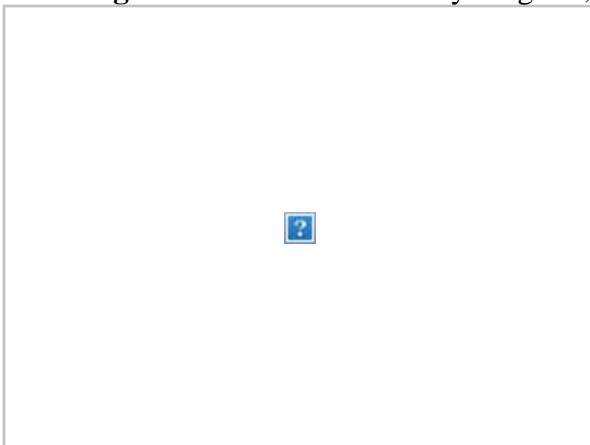
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

**EPA Actions:** EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

**Media Interest:** No media interest at this time.

**EPA Region 5 OSC contact:** Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



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